

AAUW BENNINGTON BRANCH BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 16, 2022 at 3 pm

Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Present: Althea Church, Jan Day, Mary Feidner, Madeline Kennedy, Jennifer Kern, Suzanne Kirkpatrick, Julie Mackaman, Norma McShane, Sheila Mullineaux, Judy Murphy, Dawn Rodrigues, Kathy Wagenknecht

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes. President Wagenknecht called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Kirkpatrick moved, Murphy seconded that the minutes of the January 18, 2022 board meeting be approved; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Day presented a financial report for the period July 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022, showing an ending checking account balance of \$7,642 with reserves (operations, scholarships, book awards) totaling \$2,615, leaving \$5,027 available. (See Financial Report, attached.) Revenues are expected in the first quarter of the new fiscal year from membership dues (operations), as well as Silent Angel donors, *Scratchings* sales, and our Oldcastle Theatre fundraiser (scholarships), and book group donations (Marge Carter Book Awards).

Committee Reports

Social Luncheon Picnic

Church reported on the June 4 event at the Old First Barn that combines our traditional March social lunch postponed due to Covid and June picnic, this time to be catered instead of a potluck. Donations beyond the \$25 cost of the lunch will support AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund. The luncheon is also an opportunity for membership renewals before the dues increase in July from \$72 (\$62 national, \$10 branch) to \$77 (\$67 national, \$10 branch). Rodrigues will place a notice about membership renewal in the June newsletter. Names of members who renew before or at the luncheon will be placed into a raffle drawing, with prizes coordinated by McShane. Wagenknecht said that the agenda of the requisite annual business meeting will not include an election as the terms of the three current officers (Wagenknecht, Day, Mackaman) don't expire until June 2023; however, it will include approval of the minutes from the 2021 annual meeting, a financial report, and a report on 2021-22 branch programs. Gudrun Hutchins will prepare a display photo collage marking our branch's 96th anniversary.

Membership

McShane, noting that the membership brochure needs to be updated with current dues, was advised that she can get the brochure's electronic file from Hutchins, who created the brochure. Mullineaux, Murphy and Rodrigues volunteered to serve on a newly formed Membership Committee, with the goal of finding ways to welcome, orient and engage new members in branch activities and, eventually, leadership positions. The newsletter publication of member profiles, including new and continuing members, remains an ongoing project. Rodrigues will create an archive of previously published profiles. Nota bene: the Member-at-Large position held by Beth Hardesty has been eliminated.

Newsletter

To increase and diversify newsletter content providers, Rodrigues repeated a request from our last meeting that Scribble Sisters volunteer to write a column or submit individual writings. Rodrigues said

she will run a reminder in the June newsletter for membership renewals, including the discounted rate for national dues before July 1 and the raffle for members who renew before or at our June 4 social lunch. As in past years, the newsletter will suspend publication over the summer months.

Programs

Mullineaux, the contact for the Program Committee, reviewed programs to date and planned for the remainder of 2021-22. While no theme was determined for 2022-23 programs, we noted that this is an important election year and that the Supreme Court is likely to overturn *Roe v Wade*. We discussed potential programs for 2022-23, including a program on the status of abortion rights (September) and a candidates forum (October). The repetition of recurring programs, including the Theatre Fundraiser (this year in August), holiday party (December), social lunch (March) and picnic (June), leaves five months that need programs: November 2022 and January, February, April, and May 2023.

Theatre Fundraiser

Feidner and Kennedy reported on Oldcastle Theatre's 2022 schedule. We decided to ask Oldcastle for a group rate on a block of tickets for *Sheep Dog* on Sunday afternoon, August 28, charging members \$35 per ticket with any excess over the Oldcastle charge going to support our scholarship fund. Members will also be given the option to add a donation to the fund to their ticket purchase.

Scholarships

Kern said that the Scholarship Committee will be meeting shortly to allocate scholarships and book awards for the Fall 2022 semester. Kirkpatrick moved, Feidner seconded that the committee be authorized to draw up to \$1,000 from the fund's reserve as needed for the Fall 2022 awards; motion carried. Kern reported that our longtime scholarship contact at CVC, Lucy Robinson, has retired, adding that she will write Robinson a letter of appreciation that will also run in our newsletter.

Involving New Members in Our Branch and Leadership

See Membership, above.

National AAUW Website

Wagenknecht asked us to test out the directions for creating our new online accounts with AAUW and suggested that we explore ways to introduce members to the resource-rich features of the website.

Adjournment. Murphy moved, Kirkpatrick seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Mackaman
Secretary

Attachments: Financial Report Summary



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